examining patent applications and awarding patents and post-grant activities.

(d) and (e) There are many ways in which the Government would encourage scientists to do productive research starting from funding of R&D projects to creation of awareness about intellectual property rights to facilitating protection of inventions and original work emanating from such projects to facilitating commercialization of technologies and know-how so generated through its various schemes and sharing of benefits and earnings by scientists. In addition, many awards have been instituted for recognized meritorious scientists.

Cloud seeding

1207. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US-based Weather Modification Inc. had done the cloud seeding in the past two years in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is effective and whether there is any Government project to develop cloud seeding in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the Government of Maharashtra, Cloud seeding operations were conducted during the years 2003 and 2004 through U.S. based Weather Modification Inc.

(b) In the year 2003, cloud seeding operations were conducted for a period of 120 days starting from 20th September, 2003. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 8 crores. During 2004, the duration of seeding operation was 120 days starting from 20th June 2004. The expenditure incurred was 16 crores, as it was more extensive.

(c) Since the cloud seeding operations were not carried out in a manner which would enable comparison between rainfall in cloud seeded and non-seeded areas, it is not possible to comment on the effectiveness or otherwise of this operation. This Department has no project to develop cloud seeding at present.